

THE PACIFIC
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W. N. ARMSTRONG, - EDITOR.

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A CLEAN GOVERNMENT.

Since the event of the negotiation of the treaty of annexation in '93, the Government of this Republic has studiously and persistently avoided the use of methods, in advancing the cause of annexation, which would have the slightest appearance of being criticised as "doubtful," or "corrupt." It has refused to follow ways of advancing the cause, which statesmen of eminent character in America, would not hesitate to adopt. It has placed itself above suspicion. All friends of the Government cordially agree with it, in its purpose to maintain its high integrity. At the same time, it is probable that it has "learned backward" too severely at times.

But this extreme sensitiveness of the Government has served one purpose. It has shown most emphatically that in Washington, where much has been said about the agents of the Hawaiian Government swarming through the Capitol with pockets full of money, there is no "barrel," and neither lobbyist nor newspaper correspondent has been able to find one.

While a "free" invitation to visit these Islands and inform themselves, given to those who are about to pass judgment on our affairs, is the most simple, direct, and thorough method of presenting our side of the annexation case, our opponents would constantly annoy those who accepted the invitation, with charges of being "bought up," "bribed with an excursion tickets." For this reason, which goes more to the wisdom, than to the morals of the practice, it is impossible for the Government to appear in any way to secure favorable action, by doubtful methods.

Owing to the unreasonable reaction in Congress, at present, against incurring any expenses through investigating committees, or what are called "junketing committees," the Senate made no provision for the personal visitation of these Islands, by a committee of its own. It is one of the curious incidents in Congressional history, that when a proposition is made, which is seriously claimed by many statesmen, to "involve a new departure from the old and traditional policy of the American people," and besides, some serious questions of facts are raised, Congress does not appropriate a few thousand dollars, in order that a full personal examination may be made. On the other hand, it will vote \$50,000 to build an interior post office, or dredge a creek, which can hardly be located on the map. It is not opposition to annexation which does all this, but a sudden, distressing spirit of economy.

The meanest feature in the publication in a local paper, of a statement, without instant contradiction, that Mr. Thurston had made the offer set forth, to an American Senator on behalf of this Government, is that it is a gross insult to Mr. Thurston's intelligence and sagacity. He is falsely charged with offenses enough already by our enemies. To state, substantially, that he has smirched the Government, is a heavy blow on the head of one who anxiously carries many burdens for the cause.

A STRANGE ERROR.

It is generally believed that the process of making laws is very solemn, elaborate, and attended with something like funeral ceremonies. We once believed that Legislators were specially prepared clothes, never permitted jokes in

their presence, read the Bible constantly in order to keep Satan from tempting them, and created around themselves an environment of lofty motives. While all this is true in the case of many Legislators, it is not generally true, as any one may know by reading Moorfield Story's book on "A Year's Legislation" in the United States. From this, one would infer that in some States, the people preferred to send their "freaks" to the Legislatures instead of their wise men. In many instances the proceedings of a boy's debating society would not suffer in comparison with some of these Legislative bodies.

Even in the American Senate, singular carelessness prevails, owing to the haste with which laws are passed. In the new tariff bill, a clause was inserted, while it was before the conference committee, that put a discriminating duty on all foreign goods coming through Canada into the States. It was a deadly strike at the Canadian-Pacific railroad. The subject was not debated in either branch of Congress, and the clause would not have been admitted if all the members of the conference committee had noticed it. But the law is now signed, and the discriminating duty must be paid. Senator Chandler apologizes to his constituents for permitting the clause to be slipped in, without his knowledge. He feels badly about it, and says, "I hope to be forgiven by my constituents, but I shall never forgive myself."

In the same conference committee, by the omission of three or four words, the meaning and intent of the law was entirely changed. This was done without the knowledge of the members of the committee generally. But it laid a discriminating duty on goods imported in European vessels, an act which Congress has steadily refused to do heretofore. So seventy millions of people solemnly enact a law which they did not really desire. It is said that grave consequences are involved. But the importance and wisdom of these laws is not our point. It is to show that legislation on most important matters is carelessly done under the conditions of high pressure, which exist in America. If the same mistakes were made in a boy's debating society, the principal of the school would interview, with the usual appliances, the boys who made the mistake.

The N. Y. Sun says that the clause so quietly put into the tariff bill, discriminating against the Canadian-Pacific railroad, ought to be there, and is excellent legislation. This view of the case has a very practical ring in it. But it is an argument really for abolishing Legislatures, and substituting in their places, the management of a few men. No doubt the few men would make better laws, but it is an abandonment of the very rugged road of Democracy.

A Government may, like an individual, be too conscientious. Lord Houghton used to tell the following anecdote: An English gentleman, caught in Paris, during the terrible days of the Revolution of 1793, obtained from one of the Revolutionary leaders a pass which permitted him to leave Paris. An English lady, the authoress of one of the most devotional hymns in the English language, was terrified at the confusion and bloodshed in the city. She asked the English gentleman to

take her out of the place on his pass as a member of his family. "What shall I call you?" he asked. "Call me your wife till the stage-coach reaches Boulogne," she replied. "Madame," he said, "in these awful times I must be above suspicion." She remained in Paris.

PERSONAL AND PECULIAR.

Americans use 2,000,000 tons of sugar annually.

Aluminum neckties are on sale in London. They are fastened to the collar-button by a band round the neck, and are particularly recommended for summer wear, since they can be easily cleaned when soiled, while they are not perceptibly heavier than cotton, cambric or silk.

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After Conan Doyle's first story had been refused by 11 publishers, he managed to sell it for \$125. Sir Walter Besant's first novel lay, after having been rejected by the publishers, for some years in a corner of his study.

The Handelsblad, Amsterdam, says that a Prussian master of ceremonies would have a fit if he were asked to marshal the guests in the English way. In Prussia the military men rank first, noblemen without military rank and without official position "take a back seat," and the clergy are remanded still further in the rear.

It has just been discovered in France that, although the palace of the Tuilleries was destroyed 26 years ago, four officials charged with the preservation and care of the palace still hold office and draw their salaries.

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TIMELY TOPICS

SEPT. 24, 1897.

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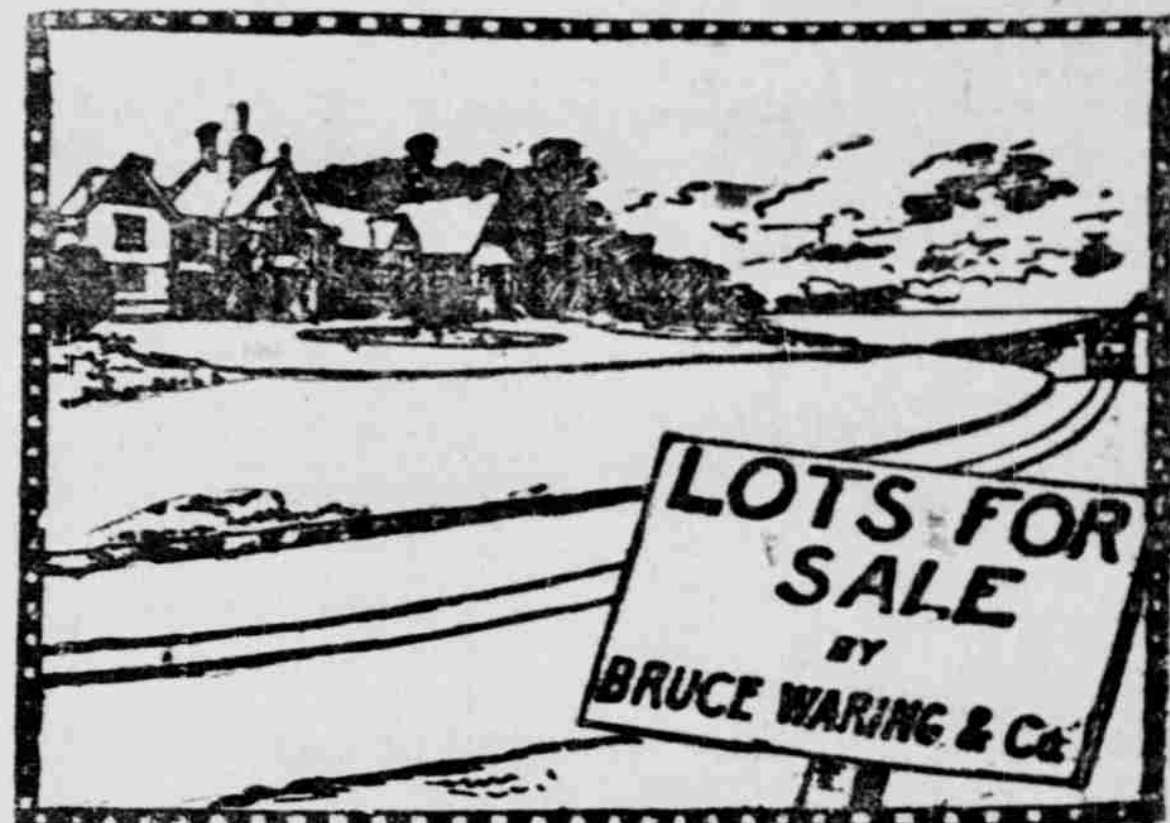
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